

SAFETY BULLETIN

SB01-010 TREE STAND SAFETY

August 2001 (Revised)

Since hunting from elevated tree stands has become so popular, hunters do a considerable amount of climbing. Tree stand safety is important enough to warrant some attention. Some hunters are ill prepared for climbing in and out of trees, others simply disregard common sense rules of tree stand hunting safety. Here are some do's and don'ts to prevent tragedy when hunting from tree stands.

DON'TS

Never attempt to climb while carrying your firearm or bow. Keep both hands completely free; place your firearm or bow and any other equipment away from the tree's base. A fall from a tree is bad enough. Falling on your equipment will only make matters worse.

Never hunt from trees during thunderstorms.

Don't be tempted to climb into any permanent stand you find. Such stands weaken with age and may collapse under your weight.

DO's

Be sure there is adequate clearance to draw and shoot your firearm or bow. Mark your shooting area; know what is in the area you will be hunting.

Use a strong cord or line to raise and lower equipment from your stand. You can tie one end to your belt during your climb to keep your hands free.

Always wear a safety belt around your waist when in any elevated stand. Fasten it before you climb into your stand and wear it until you are ready to climb down.

If you are using steps, always place the last step parallel or slightly above the level of the stand. This way you will not have to step up into the stand, or down the stand to leave.

Let someone know where you will be and the time you plan to return.

Always dress appropriately for the conditions and unload your firearm before raising or lowering it out of the stand.

By following these simple safety rules, all should have a safe and bountiful hunting season.